



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-3873
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

WENDY L. WATANABE
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

MARIA M. OMS
CHIEF DEPUTY

ASST. AUDITOR-CONTROLLERS

ROBERT A. DAVIS
JOHN NAIMO
JUDI E. THOMAS

June 30, 2009

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM:

Wendy L. Watanabe
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – MARY'S
SHELTER, INC. – HOUSE ONE AND HOUSE TWO TRANSITION
GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of House One and House Two Transition Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Mary's Shelter, Inc. The Group Homes contract with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department.

House One Group Home is an 18-bed facility and House Two Transition Group Home is a 12-bed facility. Both Group Homes provide care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, House One Group Home was not providing services for any DCFS children and House Two Transition Group Home was providing services for three DCFS children.

House One and House Two Transition Group Homes are located in Orange County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the House One Group Home review is to evaluate the Agency's facility and environment. Since House One Group Home was not providing services for any Los Angeles County children at the time of our review, the monitoring review was limited to a facility inspection which covers basic child safety and licensing issues and a personnel background check review.

The purpose of the House Two Transition Group Home review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. In addition, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, employee records, a facility inspection and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the children are designed to obtain their perspective on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

The Group Home is well maintained and the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. As a result, a corrective action plan is not necessary.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or your staff may contact Don Chadwick at (213) 253-0301.

WLW:MMO:JET:DC:AA:jdh

Attachment

c: William T Fujioka, Chief Executive Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Ted Myers, Chief Deputy Director, DCFS
Susan Kerr, Senior Deputy Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Paul Peek, Board Chairman, Mary's Shelter, Inc.
Barbara Nelson, Executive Director, Mary's Shelter, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Mary's Shelter, Inc.
House One Group Home
Santa Ana, California 92705
License Number: 306000793
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

House One Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

None.

II. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size for employee record evaluation: Ten

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.

**Mary's Shelter, Inc.
House Two Transition Group Home
Santa Ana, California 92705
License Number: 300613291
Rate Classification Level: 12**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

House Two Transition Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

The interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age-appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendation

None.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current, comprehensive and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendation

None.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school, are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendation

None.

IV. Recreation and Activities**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews**

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment and social activities in which they have an interest. The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendation

None.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendation

None.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, have private visitors, and attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks. Children also receive voluntary medical, dental and psychiatric care.

Recommendation

None.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendation

None.

VIII. Personnel Background Checks

Method of assessment - Review of relevant documents

Sample size for employee record evaluation: Seven

Comments:

The Group Home has obtained the required criminal and child abuse clearances for their employees.

Recommendation

None.